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FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

Of Special Interest This Week

+ REACTION TO NORIEGA INDICTMENT - FBIS alerted its bureaus covering Latin America that Panamanian military leader General Manuel Noriega would be indicted in the U.S. on 5 February and that possible retaliatory action against the U.S. could be expected. Panama Bureau maintained a close watch on both Panamanian and opposition media over the weekend, providing prompt coverage of a statement by mid-level army officers supporting Noriega and a speech by the general in which he discussed the charges and asserted that the U.S. was using the legal process for political purposes. He further charged that the U.S. Southern Command is "another aggression against Panama." FBIS contingency plans call for most of Panama Bureau's coverage to be assumed by Key West Bureau, augmented with personnel from either Panama or Headquarters. (C)

INF DEBATE, GORBACHEV STATEMENT - On 9 February, London Bureau fed over INTERNET to the Headquarters TV Grid live coverage of the Kremlin session of the Foreign Affairs Commissions of the Council of the Union and Council of Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet, which discussed the INF treaty with the U.S. It was the first time Moscow Television had carried such a debate live. USSR Foreign Minister Shevardnadze, among others, spoke during the debate. On 8 February, the Headquarters TVRO covered an announcer-read statement, just before the VREMYA newscast, by General Secretary Gorbachev pledging a USSR withdrawal from Afghanistan. (C)

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SUBJECT: Notes for the DCI FBI

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